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NEW PYRAMID UNCOVERED AT SAQQARA

Two months ago it was reported in the press that another pyramid had been discovered at Saqqara by Mr. Mohammad Zakaria Ghoneim, Inspector of Antiquities of that district. Actually only part of the masonry of the base of this step pyramid has been cleared thus far; the temenos wall of this pyramid precinct was found in 1951 and a report was published in the Illustrated London News of June 7, 1952, pp. 980-981. The pyramid may prove to be the tomb of King Sa-nekht (ca. 2750 B.C.), the successor of King Zoser of Dynasty III.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER

"It scarcely seems possible that one half of our period in Cairo has gone by and that ere long we shall have to be paying visits to the shipping companies to enquire about sailings for home. That is a reminder that tomorrow we had better begin our rounds of leaving cards at Embassies and Institutions for the New Year. To you at home it seems a silly custom, but out here there is still much of the European tradition, and it makes for good relations if we observe such customs. December, like November, has been a month of phenomenal weather. Never do we remember a December of so many dull days or so many days of rain, not heavy rain but just miserable drizzle, quite unlike the Egypt we knew of old. January has begun better. It is cold but bright and cheerful and invigorating.

"There was a special Christmas service at the American Mission Church the previous Sunday, where the choir took over and provided a service which was mostly musical and where only laymen took part--a new and rather startling experience to our indigenous Christian friends who seem to think that there can be no service without major participation by professional men of religion. The Church was packed to the doors with a



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congregation ninety per cent Egyptian, and received so enthusiastically that it had to be repeated the following Friday night for the benefit of the great numbers who have to work on Sundays but have Friday as their weekly holiday.

"Did I mention in the last Newsletter about Adolf Grohmann's new volumes of Arabic Papyri? When he was working on Vols. I - III before the War I went through his English edition with him as it came along in proof sheets, and now that he is here working on the further volumes he is bringing along the proof sheets again that we may work through them together. This is a help to him because, as you are all aware, English is a tricky language for the foreigner, full of pit falls of which he is often unconscious, and it is exceedingly good for my Arabic because it is necessary to go carefully through each Arabic text with which he is dealing. The present documents are mostly documents concerned with commercial transactions, and have a wealth of material for the student of social and economic history.

"George Miles of the Numismatic Society, who is one of the new Trustees elected at your last Annual Meeting, was up here from Alexandria during the month to give a lecture at the School of Oriental Studies on "Numismatics and History". There was not so large an audience as one would have desired, but it was an interested group and he very wisely chose to devote his time to a series of specific examples of how Numismatics serves to illustrate cultural contacts and solves historical problems.

"Perhaps the big event of the month was the opening of the Winter Session of the Arabic Academy, whose building is a stone's throw away from here. We had called on them officially soon after we arrived in the summer, so we duly received an invitation to this opening ceremony. We had not anticipated such a crowd. We arrived there fifteen minutes before the scheduled time to begin and already the outer room was packed, mostly by youth. They have only a made-over private house for the Academy so that it is ill-adapted for public ceremonies. They were using the largest room, but had to use also an outer room adjoining it in which they had set up loud-speakers. It was this outer room that was packed; however, we were picked up as "distinguished foreign guests" by their marshals and ushered into reserved seats in the inner room. I was glad my wife did not come, for they were very orthodox and ladies were carefully segregated in a front corner where a huge sign warned everyone that this was for the sayyidat.

"The ceremony was planned as an hour's affair, but after two and a half hours I had to leave for luncheon appointments, and they were still going strong. An old

friend of ours, Dr. Mansur Fahmy, had the opening speech, which was good but far far too long, in which he explained the origins of the Academy, expounded his idea of its purpose, and reported on the year's work and the plans for the coming year. Then Taymur, one of the foremost modern men of letters, delivered what was billed as the main address of the morning but he was followed by two worthy Sheikhs, each of whom thought that his ought to be considered the main address. The first of them discussed at length the question of whether or not Khalil B. Ahmad was really the author of the Kitāb al - 'Ain - a matter which one thought had been settled by Erich Bräunlich years ago - and the other gave us a spirited rejection of the work of Western Orientalists who claim that various Arabic words are derived from non-Arabic sources. The word failasūf e.g. he denied was from the Greek but was composed of two Arabic words fail and sūf. He was very witty and one could enjoy his sallies even if unconvinced by his etymologies. It is always fascinating to listen to their smooth flow of classical Arabic, but they could all profit from the advice Spurgeon once gave to some budding preachers, telling them that for a sermon to be immortal it need not be eternal.

"Fairly early in the month we came across a hoard of coins here in private possession. A great many of them are Ptolemaic and Roman, and not of particular interest, but there is one group of gold dinars from the early Arabic period which I want George Miles to see when he is here again in January. My own ignorance of Muslim numismatics is profound, but these looked good and it may be that there is something there that may be worth examination. The same person says that he has a hoard of both Coptic and Arabic papyri, but they were not brought out at this visit. That is characteristic.

"Gibb has been here for some days from Oxford. He is out for the meetings of the Arabic Academy, but had to come a week late as he was under obligation to see the final proofs of the first fascicule of the new Encyclopaedia of Islam before he left. We have talked at length about some of the problems involved in this new edition. I am responsible for a group of the new articles needed for that work, and a good deal of my time this month has been spent in preparing and sending them off. This was the more urgent as a part of January I shall be away in Jordan lecturing at Amman and Jerusalem and unable to sit at a desk to do such work as that. UNESCO is supporting that to some extent, and Gibb gave us the very good news that UNESCO has also given substantial support to the new Turkish Etymological Lexicon whose appearance will bring joy to many scholars.

"Milad Effendi Saleeb has been consulting with me recently about the work on his Colloquial Arabic Dictionary. He claims that it was I who put the idea into his head years

ago, but now at any rate he has a very large assemblage of material on Egyptian Arabic. He is not interested merely in the vocabulary which the Egyptian dialect has in common with classical Arabic, but in the words that are non-classical, the special meanings given in Egypt to classical words, and in particular the phrases which are characteristic of the Egyptian colloquial language. In many respects it is superior to anything that has so far appeared on the Egyptian dialect and I hope that it will be possible to secure the funds to publish it. There would be no difficulty in finding a local printer to undertake it if the initial subvention could be provided. No printer, I am afraid, would undertake it without.

"The Egyptologists among you will be interested in the announcement that there have been some more important finds at Saqqara. Mustafa Amer has promised to take us out to see them when the holidays are past, so we may have something to tell you later. Mustafa Amer lectured here at the School on the 22nd on the predynastic site at Ma'adi. At the lecture we met Zaki Sa'ad who has invited us to come to see his excavation of early dynastic sites near Ma'adi where now he has a small museum to house the finds. We learn from Dr. 'Atiyya that that place is of more than usual interest. When the Center secures a building of its own, plans for it should include space for a smallish Museum. It would be a simple matter to collect here specimens to illustrate the various periods of culture in Egypt which would be an invaluable aid to students who might be working at the Center. Several things have come out latterly which lead one to believe that a good deal of useful material for such a little Museum would be gladly given to the Center as gestures of interest and friendliness. I remember well the use the students at the School in Jerusalem used to make of the ceramics cabinet that had been arranged by the late Clarence Fisher before he died, and which illustrated excellently the 'pottery index' for Palestine."

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AMERICAN EXCAVATIONS IN EGYPT, 1899-1940

It is one of the aims of the Center to resume some day American excavations in Egypt, not only for the advancement of scholarship but also for the training of young archaeologists for whom some field experience will be of value in their later work in universities and museums. Meanwhile it may be of interest to record summarily the years and sites worked by American institutions in Egypt thus far:

University of California, Berkeley:

1899-1900, near Quft (Coptos) and at Shurafa
1900-1901, at Deir el Ballas
1900, at el Ahaiwah
1901-1904, at Naga ed Deir
1903-1905, at Giza

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston:

1905-1910, 1912-1916, 1923-1940, at Giza
1910-1911, at Zawiet el Aryan
1910 and 1913, at Mesa'eed
1912, at Mesheikh
1912 and 1923-1924, at Naga ed Deir
1913, at Naga el Hai
1913-1916, in the Sudan, at Kerma
1913, 1923-1924, at Sheikh Farag
1915, at Deir el Bersheh
1916, 1918-1920, in the Sudan, at Gebel Barkal
1916-1918, 1920, in the Sudan, at Nuri
1918-1919, in the Sudan, at El Kurru
1920-1923, in the Sudan, at Begrawiyeh (Meroe)
1923, at Quft (Coptos)
1924, at Kafr Ghattati (near Giza)
1924, 1927-1931, in the Sudan, at Semna
1924, in the Sudan, at Kumma
1924, 1928-1930, in the Sudan, at Uronarti
1928-1932, in the Sudan, at Shalfak (Sarras)
1931-1932, in the Sudan, at Mirgissa

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

1906-1909, 1912-1914, 1916-1918, 1920-1925,
1931-1934, at Lisht
1907-1912, 1927-1928, 1930-1931, at Khargeh Oasis
1910-1911, 1920-1921, at Wady Natrun
1910-1925, 1926-1931, 1934-1936, at Thebes
1933-1934, at Hierakonpolis
(The Graphic Branch of the Expedition, Mr. and Mrs.
N. de Garis Davies, worked during 1907-1917 and 1919-
1934)

The Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences (Brooklyn Museum)

1906-1907, between Esna and Edfu at Mohamerieh, Adamieh,
Kom el Ahmar and El Qara
1907-1908, between Esna and Silsile at Mezaideh, Abu
Zeidan, Adamieh and Kom el Ahmar

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

1907-1910, at Areika, Anibeh, Karanog, and in the Sudan
at Buhen (also survey of churches in lower
Nubia)
1915, at Giza

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, cont.:

1915-1918, at Denderah
1915-1919, 1921-1923, at Memphis
1921-1923, at Thebes
1929-1932, at Meydum

Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

1926-1932, at Medinet Habu (The Architectural Survey)
(Other operations include:
1922-1931, The Coffin Texts Project
1924 to present, The Epigraphic Survey, at Medinet Habu
and, since 1931, also at Karnak
1926-1933, The Prehistoric Survey, in Egypt and the Sudan
1931-1937, The Sakkarah Expedition, recording the
Mastabah of Mereruka)

Harvard University, Cambridge

1927, 1930 and 1935, at Serabit el Khadem (Sinai)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

1924-1935, at Karanis
1931-1932, at Dimai
1934, at Terenouthis (Kom Abu Billou)

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR JANUARY

"This month of January has been a broken month because we spent a fortnight of it in Jordan. Since your Director this year represents the Arabic and Islamic interests of the Center, it was perhaps appropriate that during the month when the Committees of the Arab League were meeting in Cairo planning closer co-operation of the Arab countries politically, culturally and socially, he should visit a neighboring Arab country and carry news of the activities of the Center there. It was a cold visit. Jordan was having a spell of its wintriest weather, we landed at the airport of Amman in a bitterly cold wind so strong that one could hardly stand upright against it, both immediately caught colds which stayed with us throughout the visit, and I am still suffering from a miserable tickling in the throat that makes me cough.

"The warmth of the Jordan visit was in its hospitality. No folk could possibly have been kinder or more hospitable, so that in spite of the cold and the colds it was possible to do a great deal in those fourteen days. In Amman I lectured every night and on the Friday morning had a session with an eager group who want to go on with the formation of a Study Group, which will include both Arabs and Westerners. They have a place where they can meet in a room

beside the Library of the Girls' School, and they have the possibility of gradually building up a little Library for Islamic Studies.

"We paid courtesy calls on the American Ambassador and the British Embassy, and on Lankester Harding, the Director of Antiquities. The American Ambassador, who is a new appointment and who is just feeling his way into the complications of a difficult situation, asked Mr. Blackburn to bring me along next day for a personal interview with him and his First Secretary, and from then on brought his wife along to all the lectures. The British Embassy also sent along one of its staff to the lectures, but we did not meet the Ambassador for the simple reason that he was called off for some days to another part of the country.

"The morning fixed for our official visit to the Department of Antiquities we left home early so as to pay a visit first to the Mausoleum of the late King Abdallah.. The filial piety of his grandson has seen to it that Abdallah has a fine resting place. They have built it on a hilltop beyond the city but on a spot from which it can be seen from all parts of the city. From the outside it looks like any Sheikh's tomb, though perhaps somewhat larger, but within the tomb itself is of local black marble veined with turquoise and green, quite unadorned but as beautiful a thing as I have seen for many a day.

"We had a most profitable interview with Mr. Lankester Harding; no one could have been more cordial than he was to us. He is busy installing himself in the new Museum building they have built up on the old acropolis, the ruins of which are part of the Museum grounds and make it a most appropriate site. It is still a relatively small building but has ample room for expansion as their collections grow. He was feeling very good over two new clauses he has managed to get put into the Antiquities Law. The first states that no new permit to excavate will be granted till the results of the previous excavation have been published. The second is that while in principle the Department of Antiquities will accept contributions from museums and institutions abroad to purchase the Dead Sea Caves material still in the hands of the Bedouin, this material must remain in Jordan till it has been properly studied and only then may be shipped to the purchasing institution abroad.

"When he went up to Jerusalem the next day he left word at the Rockefeller Museum there that we should be coming in a few days and were to be given every facility to see the Dead Sea Caves material. The result was that we did see everything. One's first impression is that the amount of

material is very much less than we had been led to expect. The announcement in New York had been that there were "bushels" of fragments. All that is out on the tables being studied, however, would fit comfortably into a single bushel, and what is still unsorted would only partially fill another. There is still material in the hands of the Bedouin, but Mr. Harding says he has seen it all, knows where it is, and as funds become available can purchase it all.

"The first day we were in Jerusalem Père de Vaux himself came along specially to the Museum to meet us and show us how the work on the fragments is progressing. It is an international project. Frank Cross from Chicago is working on one lot, John Allegro from London on another, Père Milik and Père Barthélémy are assisting de Vaux on two other lots, while Père Starkey is working on the unbelievable Nabataean papyri that came out of the cave at Murabba'at. They have asked the Austrian papyrologist Adolf Grohmann, who was for so many years at the University of Prague and is now in Cairo, to undertake the publication of the Arabic material from Mird, near Mar Saba. I have talked with him at length about this, and he will probably visit Jerusalem sometime this winter to see the material, for in dealing with papyri the eye can often pick up a lot of details not clear in the photographs. One of the astonishing things about this Arabic material is that two small documents are on paper not on papyrus. They may, of course, be intrusive, but if they are not it will be necessary to revise our ideas of the date at which paper came to the knowledge of the Arabs.

"We did not see Père Barthélémy for he had been ill and had been sent home on vacation for a while. Père de Vaux, however, specially had Père Starkey bring down to the Museum for me to see the pieces of Nabataean papyrus. They are beautifully written and the script gives us the link between the inscrip-tional Nabataean and the earliest forms of Arabic letters. The documents seem all to be business documents and will add something to our knowledge of the vocabulary.

"Miss Dorothy Garrod was living in the School at Jerusalem all the time we were there, and working daily in the Museum at her Carmel Man. You will remember that those skeletons were sent to England to be bit by bit chipped from the stone in which they were embedded that the bones might be properly studied. Now the bones have been returned to Jerusalem and a technician at the Museum is making a plaster cast in which Miss Garrod is setting the bones, so that when she is finished the skeleton of Carmel Man can be put on exhibit in practically the state he was when he was discovered. We had not dared ask that we might be permitted to descend to those sacred work rooms in the basement of the Museum, but one morning she herself invited us to come to see

her work, so that though he will not be quite complete for some days yet we have seen him very much as he originally was. Is it my imagination or is it a fact that his skull seemed far less simian than those of many humans one sees around?

"Early in the month Dr. Caskey and his wife from the American School of Classical Studies at Athens came to supper with us to meet some of the folk here. They had been on a leisurely visit to Luxor to see what was doing there. They gave us a cordial invitation to visit them in Athens, and if our boat on the way home stays long enough in the Piraeus we may run up to see them and have a look in at the Gennadion after these many years. Also early in the month George Miles and his wife were up here again and we were able to introduce him to the Miss As'ad whose father had collected so many early Arabic coins which she wanted him to see.

"In driving across from Amman to Jerusalem we turned aside for an hour to see the work at the Jericho Tell, where Miss Kenyon is digging again. The American group there was working on a pre-pottery neolithic level, but the British were all excited because they had come upon some Late Bronze pots and a Late Bronze burial, for Late Bronze (the Joshua period) had been conspicuous by its absence in the work of previous seasons. Miss Kenyon seems to think this latest burial is the most important thing they have so far come upon."

EGYPTIAN FILM SHOWN IN NEW YORK

'Egypt - A Journey Into The Past,' the color movie on Egyptian archaeology, was the chief feature of the banquet of the Archaeological Institute of America at its General Meeting in New York on December 29, 1953. Over 200 members of the Institute and of the American Philological Association attended the banquet and another 100 crowded into the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel New Yorker when the film was shown. Members may remember that the movie was made under the auspices of the Center in 1951 when Mr. William Stevenson Smith was in Egypt as Director. Additional shots were later taken in the Brooklyn Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, by Mr. Ray Garner the creator of the film. Mrs. and Mrs. Garner are now in Greece, making a color movie on Greek archaeology under the auspices of the Agora Excavations of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Several newspapers, including Al Ahram (Cairo), cabled reports on the Egyptian film to their home offices.